

February 14, 2022

UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.



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FROM THE EDITOR

Recent big news at UAFA is the recognition of the hard work of our Associate Tree Master volunteers and the 2022 synchronization with our American Upchurch Index Tree! Linda Upchurch Sparks, Tree Master Coordinator is head of this project, which has now been uploaded to [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com). This was announced in email to the volunteers and also on our [Facebook Group Upchurch & Allied families](https://www.facebook.com/UpchurchAlliedFamilies) this month by office manager, Jay Buck. In part he adds, "A great way to show your appreciation to our volunteers is to make a donation to Upchurch and Allied Families."

Also on Facebook this month, read posts or other news stories relating to UPCHURCH.



Cindy Hale

Gertrude McGee Upchurch

By Robert Phillip Upchurch, PhD

COMMENTARY: Gertrude McGee Upchurch was born in 1881 in Raleigh, NC and died there in 1966. She was the daughter of William W. Upchurch, who in turn was the great-grandson of Nathan Upchurch I, head of Upchurch clan # 3. Gertrude never married but distinguished herself by becoming an attorney and being the first female in North Carolina to represent the State in a legal case. Between the lines we read that during her lifetime women were not given equal treatment in the workplace. We value her accomplishments as she adds luster to the family of her grandfather Alfred Upchurch, a prominent businessman and citizen in Raleigh in the 1800s. He and his brother,

William Clinton Upchurch I were movers and shakers in the Raleigh area. The large role that the Upchurch family played in Raleigh during the 19th century remains to be displayed adequately. More on the life of Gertrude will help to get this story told.

—Phil Upchurch, 17 Apr 2018



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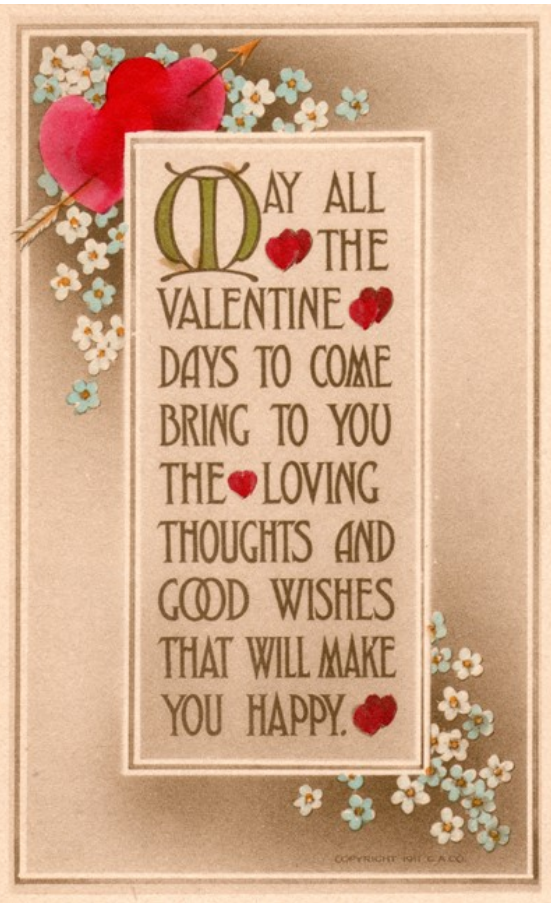
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[Upchurch & Allied Families on Facebook](#)

Message from UAFA Tree Master Coordinator—Upchurch Trees

The 2022 American Upchurch Index by UAFA tree is finally complete and has been uploaded to [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/180410513/family?cfpid=292356267538). Here's a sneak peek <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/180410513/family?cfpid=292356267538>.

This new tree has 119,603 Upchurch family members, with most able to trace their roots back

to Michael Upchurch I. As in the past, the purpose of the Index is to help family members identify which Clan they belong to.

On each Clan Head's profile page there is a weblink to that Clan Head's tree.

The 2021 Index tree has been made private and will no longer appear in searches. Very soon it will be com-

pletely retired [replaced by our new tree].

If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

Linda Upchurch Sparks

UAFA Tree Master Coordinator—
Upchurch Trees

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Gertrude McGee Upchurch

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It is with great pleasure that we present this tribute to Cousin Gertrude. She never married but worked diligently in her lifetime to exercise her natural abilities. She was among the forefront of those whose who helped to put cracks in the glass ceiling which for so long was a major barrier to the advancement of women.

Alfred U. heads a line in the Nathan U., I/Burtis U. Subclan. His line is thinly documented. We were, therefore, doubly pleased to learn recently, unexpectedly, a surprising story about Gertrude McGee U., a granddaughter of Alfred.

Gertrude had previously entered our consciousness twice. Once was due to the fact that my wife, Sal-laine, and Gertrude in the 1940s took their meals at the same place in Raleigh, NC and thus had a casual acquaintance.

The other input was from Shirley (U.) (Ax) Koonman, whose son Roy Ax was a colleague of your editor [Dr. Phil Upchurch] in Arizona. Shirley was a niece of Gertrude. Still, nothing had prepared us for the latest input which happened as will now be told.

In establishing the Upchurch Collection at N. C. State University, we have used the services of an appraiser, Mr. Lynn Roundtree, who is located in Chapel Hill, NC. As an aside he provided the following in an e-mail dated 27 Mar 2007:

By the way, are you related to Gertrude McGee Upchurch of Wake County? Several years ago, I co-authored a book on the first one hundred women attorneys in NC, and the self-same Gertrude was one of these first one hundred. (I'm attaching a copy of the brief bio sketch of her for your files, in case you don't already have it.)

Gertrude McGee Upchurch was licensed to practice law in Raleigh in 1932. Miss Upchurch worked as a stenographer for state government in Raleigh during the 1920s; first for the State Auto License Department, and subsequently for the Department of Revenue and the Attorney General's office.

*After receiving her law license - yet while still employed as a "secretary" - North Carolina Attorney General Dennis G. Brummitt asked Miss Upchurch to write several briefs for cases before the North Carolina Supreme Court. She did so, writing five signed briefs in the course of a year, beginning in May 1932. Thus, **Gertrude M. Upchurch***

became the first female attorney to act in an official legal capacity on behalf of the State of North Carolina.

Nonetheless, the Attorney General's office continued to employ her as a "stenographer reporter" in the mid-1930s, and after 1933, Miss Upchurch's name does not appear on any briefs or court filings. By 1938, Miss Upchurch had moved on to a job with the Works Progress Administration's State and Municipal Government Records Survey. In the 1940s she worked as a clerk-stenographer for the State Public Welfare Board.

Miss Gertrude Upchurch died at Wake Memorial Hospital in Raleigh on March 10, 1966, at the age of eighty-four. She is buried in Raleigh's Oakwood Cemetery, Wake Co., North Carolina.

For more information [CLICK HERE](#).

Good Timber

The tree that never had to fight
For sun and sky and air and light,
That stood out in the open plain
And always got its share of rain,
Never became a forest king,
But lived and died a scrubby thing.

The man who never had to toil
To heaven from the common soil,
Who never had to win his share
Of sun and sky and light and air,
Never became a manly man,
But lived and died as he began.

Good timber does not grow in ease;
The stronger wind, the tougher trees;
The farther sky, the greater length;
The more the storm, the more the strength;
By sun and cold, by rain and snows,
In tree or man, good timber grows.

Where thickest stands the forest growth
We find the patriarchs of both;
And they hold converse with the stars
Whose broken branches show the scars
Of many winds and of much strife —
This is the common law of life.

by Douglas Malloch, pub. 1922